

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01806 011244Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----076122 011249Z /14

O 011200Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7400
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 1806

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJECT: SIILASVUO REQUESTS HELP

REF: JERUSALEM 948

1. RAISED SIILASVUO'S PROBLEMS WITH BOUTROS MORNING APRIL 1.
TOLD HIM WE WOULD SUPPORT UN EFFORTS GET INCREASED STAFFING
FOR UNIFIL AND WERE EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES SUCH AS NIGERIAN
CONTINGENT.

2. THEN SHOWED HIM PARA 3 AND PARA 4 REFTEL REGARDING
SIILASVUO'S NEED FOR GOL REPRESENTATIVES IN THE SOUTH AND
LIAISON OFFICER AT NAQURAH. BOUTROS GOT ON TELEPHONE
IMMEDIATELY TO COL. AHMAD AL-HAJJ, COMMANDER OF THE INTERNAL
SECURITY FORCES, ABOUT THE QUESTION OF GENDARMES TO WORK WITH
UNIFIL. HE PREFACED CALL BY TELLING ME HE AND PRESIDENT AND
PRIME MINISTER HAD MET WITH HAJJ YESTERDAY MORNING TO
IMPRESS UPON HIM NEED TO GET CRACKING. HAJJ WAS DOING

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EVERYTHING HE COULD, BUT MINISTER OF INTERIOR WAS NOT
BEING AS HELPFUL AS HE COULD BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN LEFT
OUT OF YESTERDAY'S MEETING.

3. BOUTROS AND HAJJ HAD ANIMATED CONVERSATION,
RELAYED TO ME PERIODICALLY FOR COMMENT. HAJJ REPORTED
THAT THERE WERE 57 GENDARMES IN THE TOWN OF TYRE. THEY

WERE UNDER THE COMMAND OF A LT. SAMI DAHER WHO IN TURN WAS UNDER THE CONTROL OF A CAPTAIN ASSAD DAHER AT SIDON. THEY WERE SENDING AN ENGLISH AND FRENCH-SPEAKING LIAISON OFFICER, A LT. FAYEZ SAIF, TO TYRE THIS MORNING TO HELP. PROBLEM WAS, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS NO UNIFIL COMMANDER WITH OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY ON THE SCENE.

4. AL HAJJ SAID THAT TYRE GENDARMERIE COMMANDER HAD GONE TO SEE FRENCH COMMANDER TO ASK IF HE NEEDED HELP AND FRENCHMAN HAD SAID THEY DID NOT NEED HELP SINCE THEY DID NOT YET CONTROL THE BRIDGES. HE HAD ALSO GONE TO SEE SOME NORWEGIAN AND HAD INCONCLUSIVE CONVERSATION WITH HIM. WHO COULD SPEAK ON BEHALF OF UNIFIL? THERE SHOULD BE RESPONSIBLE OFFICER IN EITHER TYRE OR SIDON.

5. WE THEN TURNED TO QUESTION OF KHardALI AND QAQAIYYA BRIDGES. HAJJ SAID THERE WERE GENDARMES IN AREA NORTH OF LITANI WHO WERE READY TO GO SOUTH TO HELP AT BRIDGES PROVIDED UNIFIL COULD GIVE THEM ESCORT ACROSS THE BRIDGES. WE DISCUSSED THIS IN THREE-WAY CONVERSATION FOR A COUPLE OF MINUTES AND AGREED THAT THIS WAS MATTER WHICH HAD TO BE COORDINATED BETWEEN SOMEONE RESPONSIBLE FOR UNIFIL AND LEBANESE OFFICIALS ON THE GROUND. THIS WAS NOT SOMETHING THAT COULD BE WORKED OUT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

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6. MESSAGE IS: IF UNIFIL WANTS TO GET THE GENDARMES THEY ARE GOING TO HAVE TO GET OFF THEIR COLLECTIVE FUNDAMENT AND SEND SOMEBODY RESPONSIBLE UP HERE IMMEDIATELY. WE ARE PREPARED TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO SUPPORT THEM, BUT THERE IS JUST SO MUCH WE CAN DO IF THERE IS NO RESPONSIBLE UNIFIL REPRESENTATIVE HERE. AS BOUTROS REMARKED, WHERE IS SIILASVUO, WHERE IS ERSKINE, HOW DO THEY EXPECT US TO COOPERATE WITH THEM IF THEY HAVE NO SPOKESMAN HERE?

7. IF SIILASVUO'S ANSWER IS THAT LIAISON SHOULD BE THROUGH THE LOCAL MIXED ARMISTICE COMMISSION COMMANDER, THE CORSICAN COL. ESPINASSY, NEWLIN CAN TELL HIM WE DO NOT THINK ESPINASSY HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO DO THE JOB. THEY HAVE GOT TO GET SOMEONE UP HERE WHO HAS OVERALL AUTHORITY, SOME BREADTH OF VISION AND A SENSE OF URGENCY.

8. WITH REGARD TO SECOND PROBLEM, LIAISON OFFICER AT NAQURAH, BOUTROS SAID HE HAD EXPLAINED EARLIER TO SIILASVUO THAT THEY NEEDED A PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM HIM,

SIILASVUO, THAT HE WAS REQUESTING ASSIGNMENT OF LIAISON OFFICER THERE IN ORDER TO SOFTEN CRITICISM THAT THE GOL WAS COOPERATING WITH THE ISRAELIS. THIS WAS PUBLIC RELATIONS GESTURE WHICH BOUTROS HAD THOUGHT EVERYONE UNDERSTOOD AND WOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN CARE OF SOME TIME AGO. TO DATE, THERE HAD BEEN NO ACTION BY UNTSO AND THERE APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN A MISUNDERSTANDING. HE THEN CALLED UP GENERAL KHOURY AND TOLD HIM TO FORGET ABOUT THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND TO SEND THE MAN DOWN TO NAQUARAH IMMEDIATELY. QUESTION REMAINS, WITH WHOM IS HE GOING TO LIAISE? IS THERE SOMEONE AT NAQUARAH WITH OVERALL AUTHORITY?

9. BOUTROS THEN CALLED PRIME MINISTER AND ASKED HIM
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PLEASE TO GET ON THE PHONE TO MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND TELL HIM TO COOPERATE WITH REGARD SENDING GENDARMES TO SOUTH.

10. I HAVE NO OBJECTION TO NEWLIN SHOWING THIS TELEGRAM TO SIILASVUO IN ITS ENTIRETY.
PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT01806
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780142-0186
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197804104/aaaadkcx.tel
Line Count: 143
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e56c35a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 JERUSALEM 948
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2827293
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIILASVUO REQUESTS HELP
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, IS, LE, XF, UNSC, UNIFIL, (SIILASVUO, ENSIO)
To: STATE JERUSALEM
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e56c35a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014